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Electronic Mail - East Timor Conference
Topic 301: Massacre in Dili
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Massacre in Dili

Report by TAPOL - the Indonesia Human Rights Campaign

This morning, Tuesday, 12 November, troops opened fire on hundreds of Timorese who had gone to Santa Cruz cemetery, Dili, to lay flowers on the grave of Sebastao Gomes, the Timorese who was shot dead at Motael Church on 28 October. According to the latest information, many were killed; one source puts the dead at "more than a hundred". The dead were all removed and taken to Taibisse. The wounded and the survivors have also been taken away on trucks.

The people going to the cemetery started out from Motael Church at 7.30 am. Others went to Hotel Turismo where Professor Kooijmans, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, is staying. The hotel is surrounded by troops. Prof. Kooijmans arrived in Dili two days ago. It is unlikely that anyone was able to contact him.

It is also reported that a foreign journalist has been wounded. This may be US freelancer, Allan Nairn, who has been in Dili with Amy Gordon for several days.

We are monitoring the situation.